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SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT FOR DRC - NOVEMBER 12, 2008,
AS OF 12:30 PM CENTRAL AFRICAN TIME (GMT +1)

1. (U) All times Kinshasa (GMT + 1) unless otherwise indicated.

2. (U) The items contained in this situation report consist principally of spot information from various sources. This report is not exhaustive, nor can all the information contained therein be confirmed at this time.

Security Situation in Goma and Surrounding Area

3. (SBU) An EU representative in Goma reported that the Governor of North Kivu has confirmed news reports that fleeing FARDC soldiers pillaged civilian residences around the area of Kanyabayonga, approximately 150 kilometers north of Goma, on November 10 and 11. Separately, news reports continue to quote Laurent Nkunda as stating his intention to take over the entire DRC if the Kabila government refuses direct talks with the CNDP.

Political Developments

4. (SBU) USAID officer TDY in Goma reported that an envoys meeting, including former Nigerian President Obasanjo, will take place in Kinshasa on November 14. AF Acting DAS Karl Wycoff is likely to participate in this meeting. (See para 6. below.)

5. (U) The SADC Summit held in South Africa November 9 resolved to provide some military assistance to the DRC in the context of the current crisis in North Kivu, according to a communique from the meeting. These measures consist of the following: a SADC team of military experts will deploy immediately to assess the situation in eastern DRC, as will the SADC Military Advisory Team for the purpose of advising the FARDC command on matters which will be agreed by the GDRC. It was also resolved that SADC should immediately provide (otherwise unspecified) assistance to the FARDC.

6. (SBU) Foreign Minister Alexis Thambwe Mwamba convened Kinshasa ambassadors of UN Security Council countries November 11, plus Angola and MONUC, to brief them on the Nairobi and SADC summits. Thambwe asserted that Nairobi had reaffirmed that the Nairobi and Amani processes remain the only framework for solving the conflict in the eastern Congo and that former presidents Obasanjo and Mkapa would re-energize those processes. (Note: More to follow on Thambwe's meeting via septel). Also on November 11, SRSG Doss met with UNSC ambassadors. He stated that Obasanjo would arrive in Kinshasa on November 14 and then proceed to Goma on November 15. No meeting with Nkunda is anticipated at this time.

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